case the process of revision is not completed by the date the new revision is due, the States should be entitled to compensation. As brought out in reply to parts (a) and (b) above, since enhancement in royalty rates every three years is not mandatory under law the question of loss or compensation thereof does not arise. The royalty rates stand revised only with effect from the date of notification.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Investigation into C.I.L. affairs

281. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI had recently investigated the affairs of Coal India Ltd. (CIL); and

(b) if so, the details of the investigation and action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited has no information regarding recent investigation by CBI into affairs of CIL.

Safety of coal mine workers

282. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to ensure safety of coal mine workers; and

(b) whether any proposal to increase the compensation is under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) In addition to compliance with the provisions for safety as contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the rules and regulations framed thereunder, following measures are taken to check accidents in coal mines and to make mining more safe:—

Coal India Limited:

CIL and its subsidiary companies are taking the following safety measures to prevent mine accidents:—

(i) Monitoring safety status of mines by Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) both at subsidiary level and at CIL Hq.

(ii) Conducting regular safety audits of mines and implementing recommendations of the same.

(iii) Design of system of support of roof in the development workings in underground mines is being done based on Rock Mass Rating Study.

(iv) Greater use of quick-setting cement capsule grouted roof bolts for support in development workings in underground mines. Roof-bolting with resin capsules are under-going trials in some mines.

(v) Phased replacement of timber support by steel support is being done.

(vi) Reducing exposure of workers to mining hazards by mechanisation of loading operations by increasing use of SDLs and LHDs in under ground mines. Also Powered Support Longwall technology, where the face workers work under skin-to-skin steel roof support, have been introduced in some mines.

(vii) Regular monitoring of mine environment by hand held gas-detectors and flame safety lamps. Besides, computerised continuous mine environmental tele-monitoring system have been introduced in some mines.

(viii) Examining the danger of inundation from both surface and underground sources of water before every monsoon.

(ix) Promoting workers' participation in safety management through various bodies from the mine level to area level, subsidiary company level and CIL level.

(x) Coal India Ltd. has made a thorough review of precautions against inundation in its mines and taken the following steps:

- Check correlation survey have been undertaken to establish the barriers between waterlogged workings wherever danger of inundation exists.
- Assessment of requirement of survey personnel and survey instruments have been made and corrective action is being taken wherever required.
- Thrust has been given on the work of connecting mine plans to the national grid and this work is nearing completion.

- New technology like application of geo-physical methods and Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) are being introduced in mines for identification of water bodies without physically proving the barrier by drilling.

(xi) Tele-communication system has been established in all underground mines.

(xii) A comprehensive action plan is under implementation to reduce accidents in opencast mines and at surface of mines.

(xiii) To reduce accidents in opencast and surface by contractual operations a code of practice on the safety aspect of work persons and machinery is being implemented in subsidiaries.

(xiv) Thrust on training and re-training of workmen including contractor's workers and supervisors.

(xv) Annual safety action plan is prepared and time-bound action programme for different safety related activities drawn up.

(xvi) Risk assessment and risk management plan of mines are being prepared as per recommendations of 9th Conference on safety in coal mines.

(xvii) Accident investigation enquiries into all accidents are conducted by ISO and the recommendations to avoid recurrence are circulated at all levels and implemented.

Singareni Collieries Co. Limited:

SCCL is taking the following safety measures to prevent mine accidents.

Underground Mines:

(i) To introduce SDLs, LHDs and Continuous Miners wherever possible to replace manual* loading, thus reducing the concentration of the workmen at the working place.

(ii) Adopt roof bolting in all the workings in large scale for support of workings including in the area of freshly exposed roof.

(iii) Introduced man-riding system in nine large underground mines for travel of workmen, thus reducing the tendency of workmen

for set-riding and propose to introduce the system in another 10 mines in a phased manner.

(iv) Establish travelling roadways with shortest possible route in intake airways with good lighting arrangements.

(v) Side bolting in the mines where the tendency for the side falls is more.

(vi) Involving scientific institutions for development of suitable support system for the workings.

(vii) Appeal to the Union leaders to counsel the workmen and their family for not resorting to set-riding by the employees in the mine.

In addition to above, SCCL has initiated the following steps to prevent accidents due to inundation from surface water in its coal mines:

(1) As per the guidelines of DGMS, pre-monsoon statutory check surveys have been carried-out both on surface and underground to assess the danger of inundation.

(2) 7 mines have been identified having potential danger of inundation from surface water as their workings lie below HFL of River Godavari or Nallah.

(3) Standing orders on safety management have been displayed in local language on notice boards and at prominent places for increasing awareness of the workmen.

(4) Escape routes were identified and marked in underground workings.

(5) Check-surveys are being conducted by special teams in every operating mine at regular intervals.

(6) During monsoon season Sr Officers conduct surprise checks on existing arrangements.

(7) Liaison is being maintained with Meteorological Department and Central Water Commission, to give warning about impending heavy rains and also to give intimation at the time of opening of flood gates in case of excess flow of water into reservoirs.

(8) Addressing supervisors and executives on the risk of inundation and to bring awareness among them.

After the disaster in SCCL at GDK-7 LEP mine on 16.06.2003, Safety audit has been conducted in all the mines of SCCL to assess the threat of inundation due to similar cause. All the stowed panels are now proposed to be treated as "likely water bodies".

Opencast Mines:

(i) Establish two way haul roads to prevent accidents of dumpers.

(ii) Establish haul roads with mild gradient of around 1 in 20 and flatter.

(iii) Implementation of traffic rules.

(iv) As far as possible, establish wider benches for smooth and safe operation of HEMM in excavation areas.

(v) Maintaining optimum bench height suitable to the shovels deployed and to the prevailing strata conditions.

(vi) Introduced good lighting arrangements at working place, haul roads and dump yards, though involving high capital and operation cost.

(vii) All the workmen to wear uniform and helmets with fluorescent bands for identification in the dark.

(viii) Intensive and periodical training of workers of contractors.

(ix) Adequate provision in the contract of off-loading for compliance of safety rules and regulations as per statute.

General:

(i) Safety pledge taken by the workmen in the beginning of the shift.

(ii) Safety dramas are being organized in mines and workers' colony in all the areas to promote safety awareness amongst workmen and their family members.

(iii) Corporate Safety Review Committee, Regional Safety Review Committee and Area Safety Audit Committee for all the areas

have been formed to review the accidents and to take appropriate steps for improving safety.

(iv) Special Safety Awareness Programmes are being conducted for coal cutters and supporting crew in every area.

(b) There is no proposal for increase in compensation. Compensation is paid as per the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

Development of coal mines for capture purpose

283. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKARASU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the impact of the order authorizing Government companies or undertakings to do regular coal or lignite mining;

(b) if so, the response given by the States;

(c) whether Government are considering to allow developing coal mines for captive purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the recommendations made by the Committee set up in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details of the capitve coal blocks allotted by the Screening Committee for captive mining of coal by companies engaged in generation of power, manufacture of iron and steel and production of cement upto 26.5.2003 are given in the Statement enclosed (See below).

(e) Question does not arise.